



Believing Is Seeing

MIGUEL DULICK

We celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which is also the first Sunday after Passover. The whole history of the world comes to this point, and today's gospel catches the eternal thrill of that day. A desperate Mary Magdalen cannot find her Lord in the tomb. Thinking that his body has been stolen, she alerts the apostles. Peter and John go running, and a moment of unforgettable suspense follows as first Peter and then John enter the tomb. The details are significant. They saw the burial cloths there and "the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place" (John 20:7). Thieves would not have taken

the time to unwrap the body and fold the face cloth. These details are intended to point to the truth of the resurrection. They saw and believed!

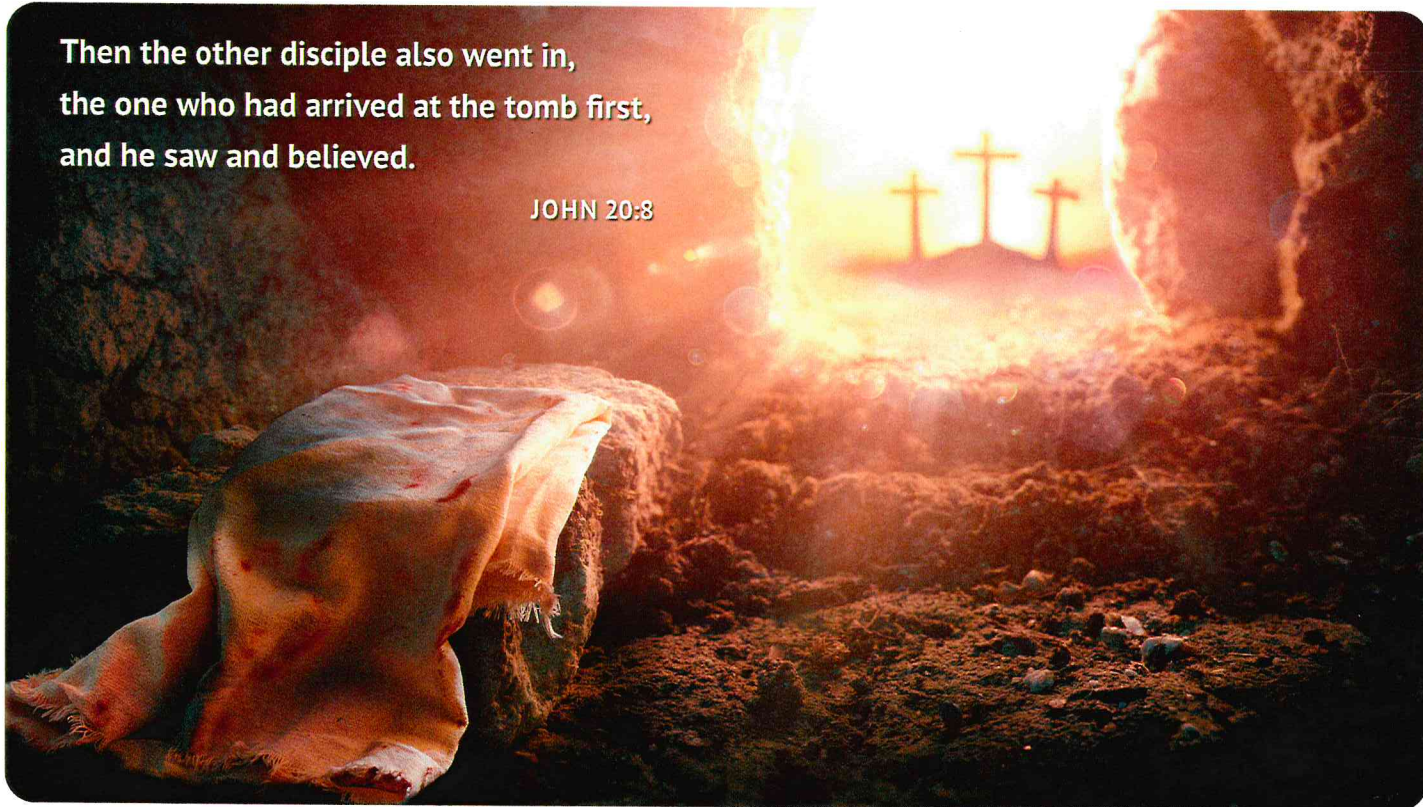
The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles follows the story of the centurion Cornelius, the first prominent pagan convert. (His story is fascinating—take time to read it this week.) Peter gives a speech including a kind of catechism that had been standardized in a formula repeated at least six times in Acts. This proclamation, or *kerygma*, incorporates the message and the motivation for a change of life. God anointed Jesus, raised him from the dead, and promised that all who believe in him will be forgiven their sins and rise with him. Happy Easter! ●

Reflect

Why do I believe in the resurrection, and how does my belief impact my life?

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.

JOHN 20:8



Dear Padre,

I'm marrying my girlfriend! Although she grew up Catholic, she doesn't practice the faith. Is it still OK to marry her?

Will you enter marriage with your fiancée because of a mutual love for each other? Do you both understand that this love will be strengthened by the sacramental grace of your matrimonial union, a grace you will receive because of baptism, not practice? Will you both try to create a loving family and, together as a family, try to be open each day to the grace of God already at work in your lives? Do you both realize that this grace calls you to create, in the name of Jesus, a witness to the truth of the gospel, which is even more powerful than the love you share?

If you hesitate to answer any of these questions with a wholehearted “yes,” then consider exploring these questions together with your pastor or another person helping to prepare you for marriage. Perfect faith is not required for a good, sacramental marriage. Openness to faith is believing that the Lord who has brought you together is not yet finished with either of you. You both have more to learn, and, with God’s grace, you will respond to his love. Jesus will work through both of you in ways that you may not even be able to imagine. In that spirit, marry her, build a life together, and know that God’s plan for you will always be there. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



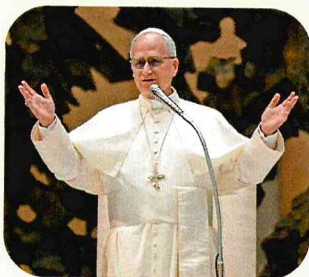
FLUNDA DEMIRKAYA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Holy Saturday...is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter.... Nothing can be excluded from [Christ's] redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised

that it cannot be touched by mercy.

**GENERAL
AUDIENCE, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 24,
2025**



MARCO IACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

April 6
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
Mt 28:8–15

Tuesday

April 7
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:36–41
Jn 20:11–18

Wednesday

April 8
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1–10
Lk 24:13–35

Thursday

April 9
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:11–26
Lk 24:35–48

Friday

April 10
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:1–12
Jn 21:1–14

Saturday

April 11
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:13–21
Mk 16:9–15

Sunday

April 12
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Acts 2:42–47
1 Pt 1:3–9
Jn 20:19–31